



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY: KENOSHA RESIDENT DEFRAUDS SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that a grand jury in this district has returned a five-count indictment against James T. Carey (DOB: 11/9/68) for defrauding the Social Security Administration (SSA). From approximately January 1996 until September 2004, Carey received monthly Disability Insurance Benefits (DIB) from the Social Security Administration. The indictment alleges Carey devised a scheme to defraud the government of more than \$159,000.00 by lying about his employment status while he continued to receive DIB benefits.

In September, 1995, the Social Security Administration authorized Disability Insurance benefits for Carey. Since that time, he has continued to receive monthly benefits. As a condition to receive benefits from the SSA, Carey was required to inform the SSA whenever he returned to work. During the review process for continuation of benefits, Carey reported to SSA that since becoming disabled, he had not returned to work.

Court documents allege that from at least 1996 until 2004 Carey failed to disclose to SSA that he owned, operated, and obtained income from "Lawn King LLC" a lawn care and snow removal business which was operated out of his Kenosha residence. In 2003, Carey changed the business name to "JT's Lawn Service" which he and his mother owned and was operated out of his mother's residence in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. The court documents further allege that Carey's work at Lawn King and JT's Lawn Service consisted of hiring and supervising employees, dealing with customers and clients, billing, bookkeeping, and some manual labor. Carey had a sub-contract with the Veterans Administration (VA) to maintain homes that were being sold by the VA. Carey also had business contracts with numerous other businesses in the Kenosha area for lawn care and snow removal.

Carey is also charged with three-counts of wire fraud as he caused SSA-DIB funds to be deposited into his credit union account. Each of these charges carries a maximum possible penalty of up to five years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, or both. The government is also seeking forfeiture of his residence in Kenosha.

This case was investigated by the Office of Investigations of the Social Security Administration and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Erica O'Neil.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, that the government established his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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